

support this achievement. Fourteen years ago, we created the National Organ Transplant Program. Our goal was to do all we can to see that organ failure is not a death sentence and make it possible for many more Americans to return to good health. We have had significant success. More than 20,000 Americans—men, women and children—now receive life-saving organ transplants each year. But more needs to be done.

Too many Americans die while waiting for organ transplantation. More than 60,000 Americans are waiting for organ transplantation. Every day, 55 of those people have an organ transplant. And every day, 10 others die because they did not have timely access to an organ. While there are differences of opinion about how an organ distribution system should be designed, it is clear that the overriding problem is a shortage in the availability of healthy organs.

In 1997, there were more than 9,000 organ donors. Nearly 4,000 of those donors were living relatives who were willing and eligible to give an organ—a kidney or part of a liver—to a family member in need. But transplantation of this type is not an option for many in need.

Each year, approximately 5,000 persons donate organs upon death. These acts of generosity are saving the lives of countless others. Transplantation of a cornea can restore sight. Transplantation of a kidney means life without dialysis. And transplantation of a heart, lung or liver means the difference between life and death. Studies show that more than 10,000 individuals each year could become organ donors after their death, and some estimates are as high as 15,000 each year.

The reasons that an individual does not become an organ donor vary. In some cases, the donation may conflict with religious or personal beliefs. But in far too many cases, the reason is simply lack of awareness of the need, or misunderstanding of the process.

In building the national organ donation and transplantation system, we have taken great care to ensure that individuals and families are not coerced into decisions to donate their organs. We have a strong shared commitment to respect personal and religious beliefs. Congress has made it illegal for organs to be sold—another measure to ensure freedom of choice. The Secretary of HHS has proposed a rule to encourage donation by training hospital personnel to explain the process. This rule, which I support, specifies that only trained hospital personnel are permitted to approach families of potential organ donors. But the most effective measure to increase organ donation is open discussion, long before a time of crisis. Families need to explore their beliefs and opinions, make personal commitments, and have an opportunity to honor the beliefs and commitments of loved ones who die.

In closing, I commend the First Family Pledge Campaign for all it has done

to encourage and support these important efforts. Congress must continue to pursue legislation and policies to assure that all Americans in need have access to life-saving transplantation. Adequate funding is essential to support these services. We need to be sure that the distribution system is fair and effective. And we need to continue our nationwide efforts to educate the public about the need for and value of organ donation.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 46. An act to provide for a national medal for public safety officers who act with extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, in order to carry out provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1143. An act to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other financial services for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1189. An act to make technical corrections in title 17, United States Code, and other laws.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

At 2:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 46. An act to provide for a national medal for public safety officers who act with extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, in order to carry out provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1143. An act to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other financial services for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1189. An act to make technical corrections in title 17, United States Code, and other laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 35. Concurrent resolution congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Diane Edith Watson, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal States of Micronesia.

Nominee: Diane E. Watson.

Post: Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Nominated: January 4, 1999.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: (see Attachment).
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses Names: None.
4. Parents Names: Dorothy Watson/None; William Allen Watson/"Deceased."
5. Grandparents Names: Lyle and Belle O'Neal/"Deceased"; William and Edith Watson/"Deceased."
6. Brothers and Spouses Names: William Watson/None; Chatera Watson/None.
7. Sisters and Spouses Names: Barbara Coleman/None; Patsy Bradfield/None; David Bradfield/None.
8. Political Contributions:

State Senator Diane Watson Schedule of Political Contributions—1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998

Date and payee	Amount
1994:	
Kay Ciniceros	\$500
California Democratic Caucus	2,000
California Democratic Party	174
Legislative Black Caucus	500
California Democratic Party	400
Valerie Lynn Shaw	200
Friends of Gwen Moore	1,000
David Roberti	1,000
Cewaer	500
Senate Victory Campaign	300
Congressional Black Caucus	230
Dorothy Ehrhart Morrison	500
Democratic National Committee	200
Paulette Riley Irons	200
Margelo Farrand	500
Sandy Hester	200
Ralph Dills	1,000
Art Torres	1,000
Hollywood Womens Pac	250
Golden State Victory	300